

REMARKS

Claims 17-47 are all the claims pending in the application.

This response follows the Examiner's Answer of January 11, 2008. As set forth at page 10 of the Examiner's Answer, Applicants are entitled to reopen prosecution by filing a reply under Rule 111 with or without amendment that is relevant to the new grounds of rejection. This Amendment constitutes Applicants' request to reopen prosecution and withdraw the appeal.

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejection of claims 17-47 over Nilsson in view of Yabe, and also the rejection of claims 17-47 over Nilsson in view of Asai. However, the Examiner has maintained the obviousness rejection of claims 17-47 over Nilsson in view of Chiba, and attached an English language translation of Chiba. Moreover, the Examiner has made a new obviousness rejection of claims 17-47 over Kelly (USP 888,619) in view of Chiba.

On page 9 of the Examiner's Answer, near the middle of the page, as to Chiba, the Examiner states that Applicants' "... claims do not recite any limitations regarding the application of the lubricant in any capacity. The claims simply recite that the 'lubricant supply device' contacts the screw shaft and [is] covered by the housing member."

By this Amendment, Applicants are amending the independent claims to recite that lubricant supply device "... primarily lubricates said screw shaft to facilitate engagement with said nut member ...". Since Chiba's oil-coated felt 7 clearly does not primarily lubricate the screw shaft to facilitate engagement between the guide 2 and the rail 1, and since neither Nilsson nor Kelly supplies this deficiency (by the Examiner's own admission), Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art rejections are overcome, and Applicants respectfully request that this application be passed to issue at the earliest possible time.

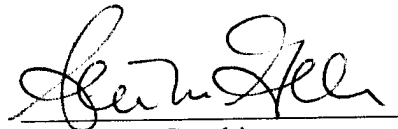
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/763,186

Attorney Docket No.: Q79580

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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